US005918888A

United States Patent [19]

Pellegrini, Jr. et al.

[11] **Patent Number: 5,918,888**

[45] **Date of Patent: *Jul. 6, 1999**

[54] **BRAKING DEVICE PARTICULARLY FOR SKATES**

[75] Inventors: **Alfred Pellegrini, Jr.**, Montebelluna; **Andrea Tormena**, Crocetta Del Montello, both of Italy

[73] Assignee: **Nordica S.p.A.**, Trevignano, Italy

[*] Notice: This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

[21] Appl. No.: **08/473,437**

[22] Filed: **Jun. 7, 1995**

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of application No. 08/115,416, Sep. 1, 1993, Pat. No. 5,465,984.

[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Sep. 1, 1992	[IT]	Italy	TV92A0097
Nov. 11, 1992	[IT]	Italy	TV92A0136
Nov. 30, 1992	[IT]	Italy	TV92A0150
Jan. 14, 1993	[IT]	Italy	TV93A0001

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **A63C 17/14**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **280/11.2**; 188/5; 280/11.22

[58] **Field of Search** 280/11.2, 11.22; 188/5, 6, 7

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

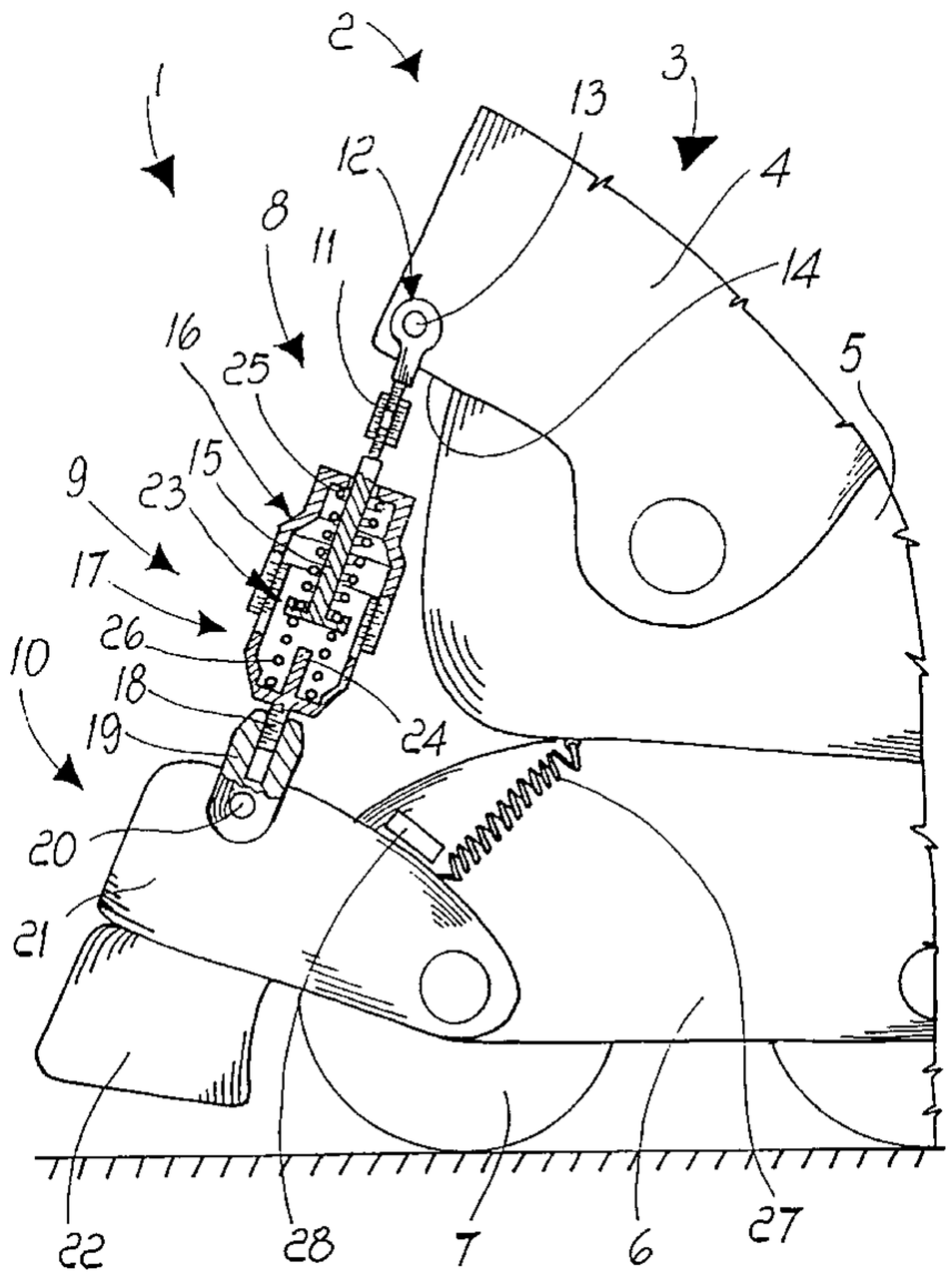
920,848	5/1909	Eubank	280/11.2
922,774	5/1909	Kennedy	280/11.23
926,646	6/1909	Eubank	280/11.2
979,169	12/1910	Kennedy	280/11.2
1,402,010	1/1922	Ormiston	280/11.2
1,445,048	2/1923	Spross	280/11.2
1,497,224	6/1924	Ormiston	280/11.2
1,687,739	10/1928	Slusher	280/11.2
2,179,592	11/1939	Goettie	280/11.2
3,767,220	10/1973	Peterson	280/11.2
4,033,596	7/1977	Andorson et al.	280/11.2
4,275,895	6/1981	Edwards	280/11.2
5,052,701	10/1991	Olson	280/11.2
5,088,748	2/1992	Koselka et al.	280/11.2
5,232,231	8/1993	Carlsworth	280/11.2
5,253,882	10/1993	Mitchell	280/11.2
5,439,238	8/1995	Neal	280/11.2
5,486,012	1/1996	Olivieri	280/11.2
5,487,552	1/1996	Daoust	280/11.2

Primary Examiner—Robert J. Oberleitner
Assistant Examiner—Michael Mar
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Hale and Dorr LLP

[57] **ABSTRACT**

Braking device for skates including an item of footgear composed of a quarter articulated to a shell which is in turn associated with a supporting frame for one or more wheels. The device includes a rod member connected to the quarter and is slidingly associated with the shell. The rod member has an end which, upon a rotation of the quarter, pushes toward the ground, a braking element articulated to the frame.

12 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



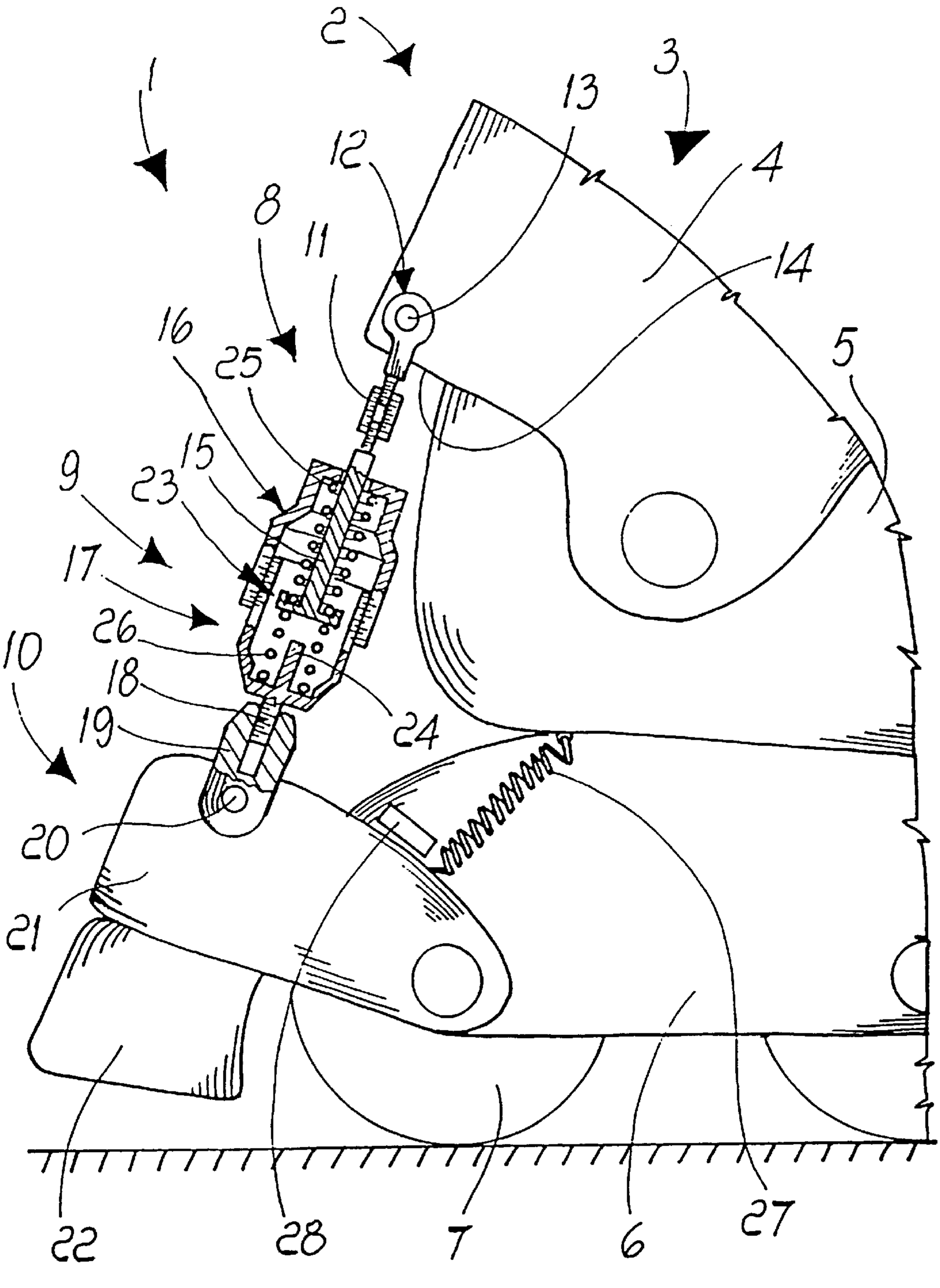


Fig. 1

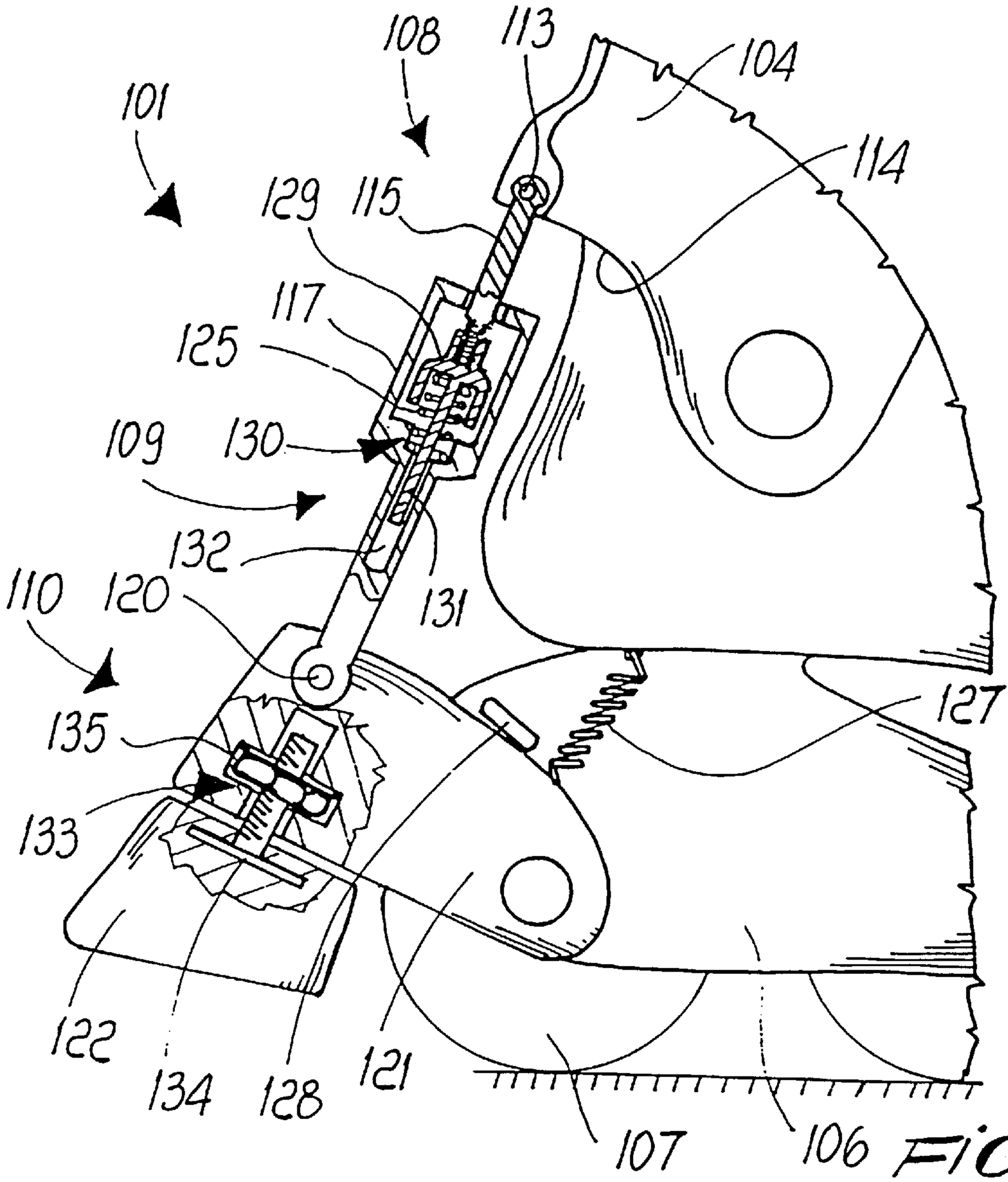

101
108
113
104
114
129
115
117
125
109
130
132
131
110
120
135
133
127
122
134
128
121
107
106

Fig. 2

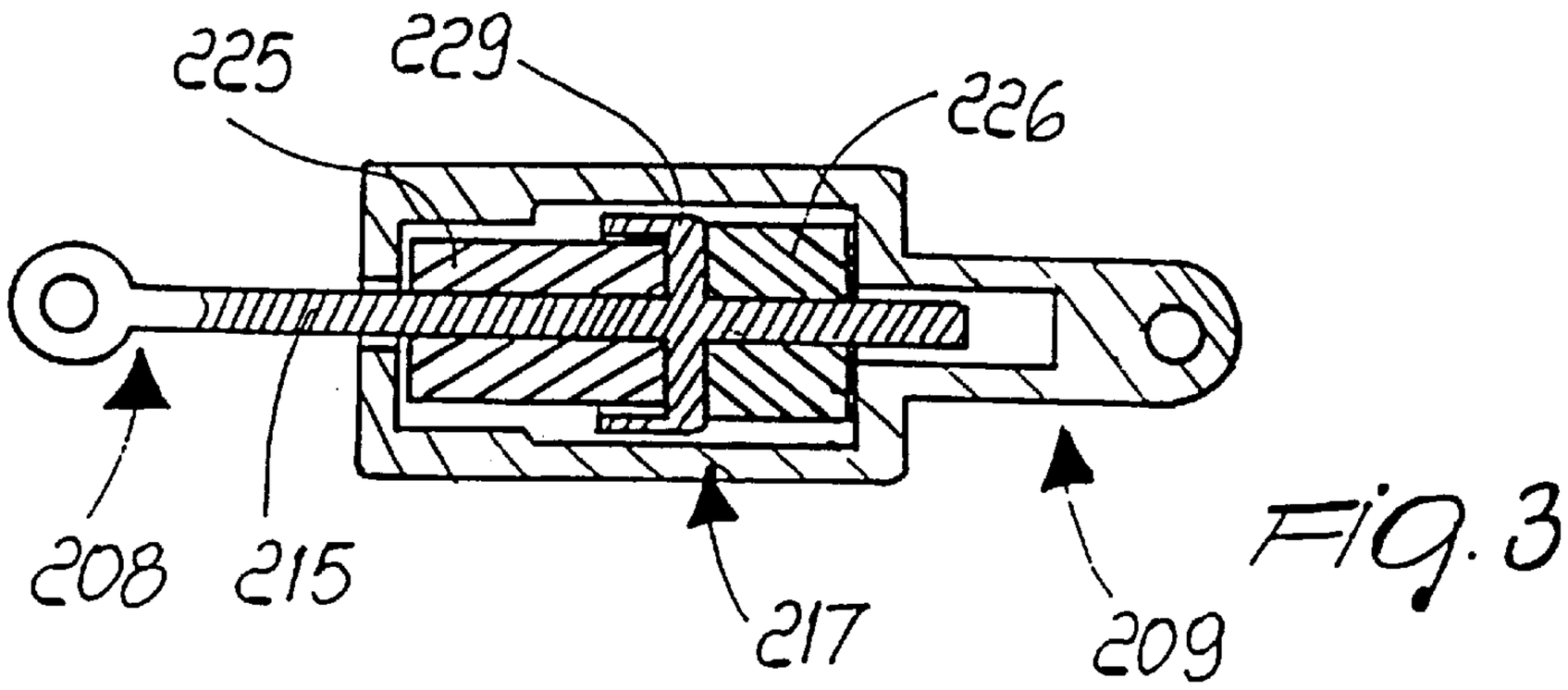

225
229
226
208
215
217
209

Fig. 3

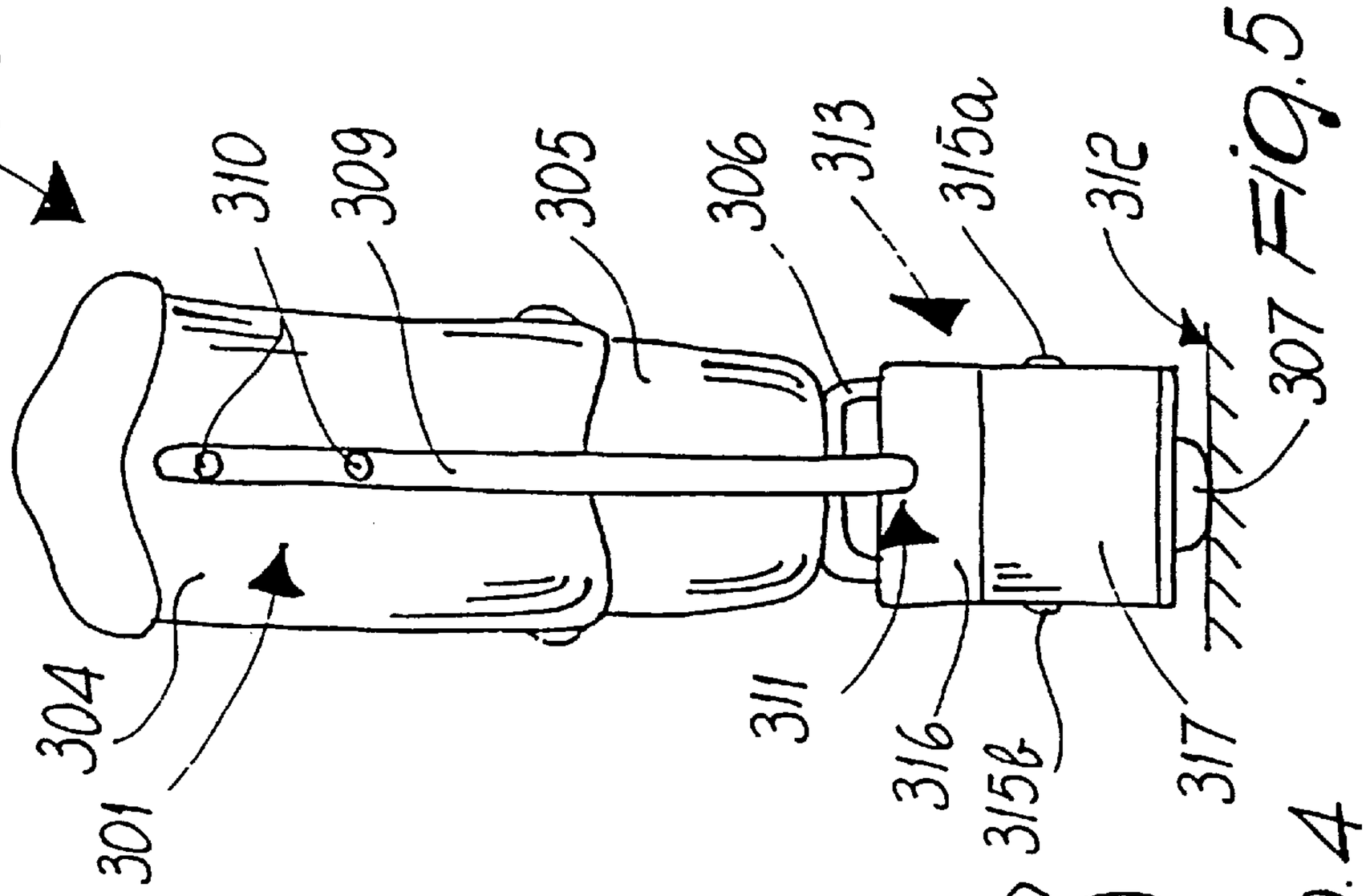

303
310
309
305
306
313
315a
312
307
304
301
311
316
315b
317

FIG. 4

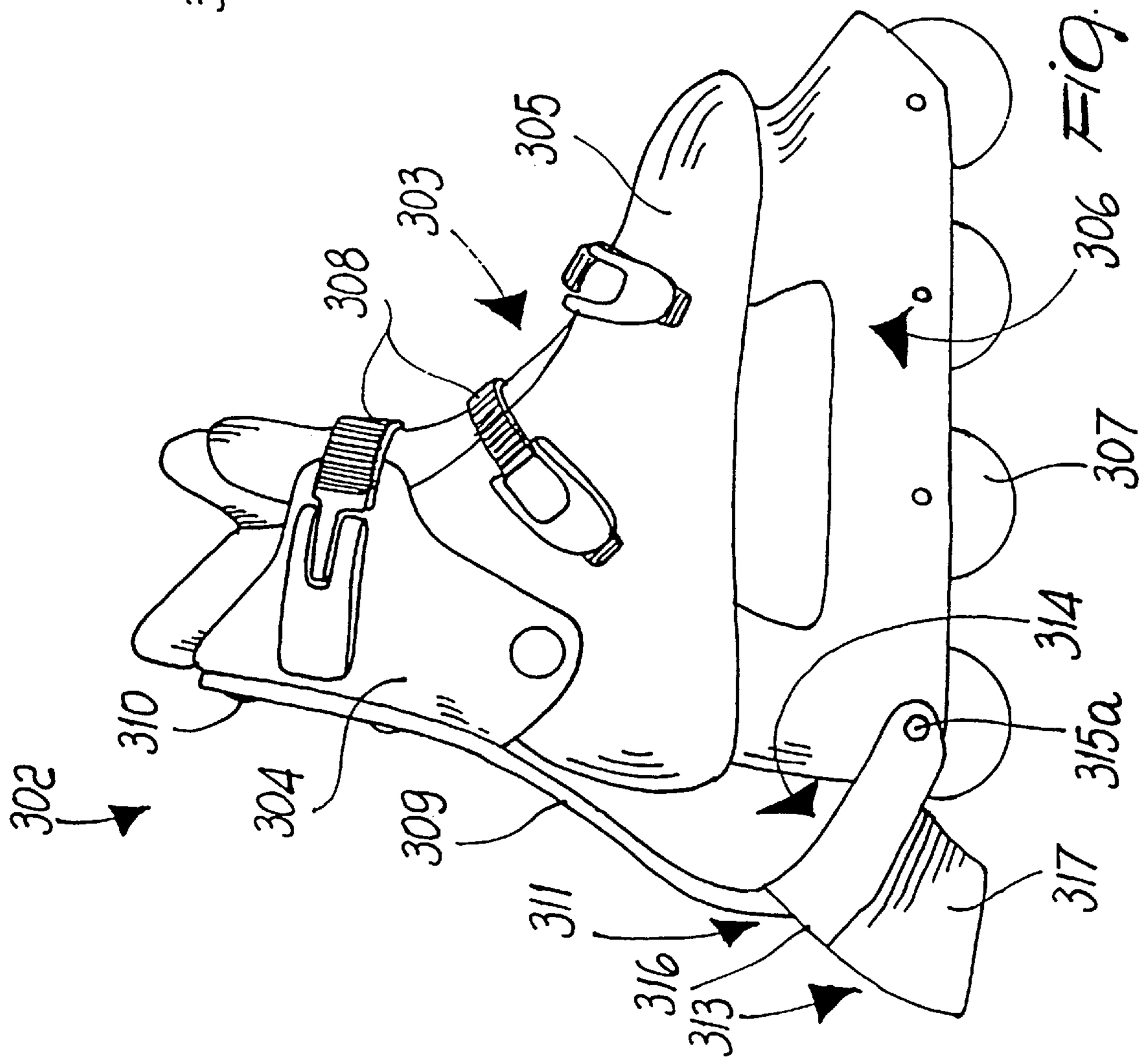

303
305
308
306
307
310
304
309
314
315a
302
311
316
313
317

FIG. 5

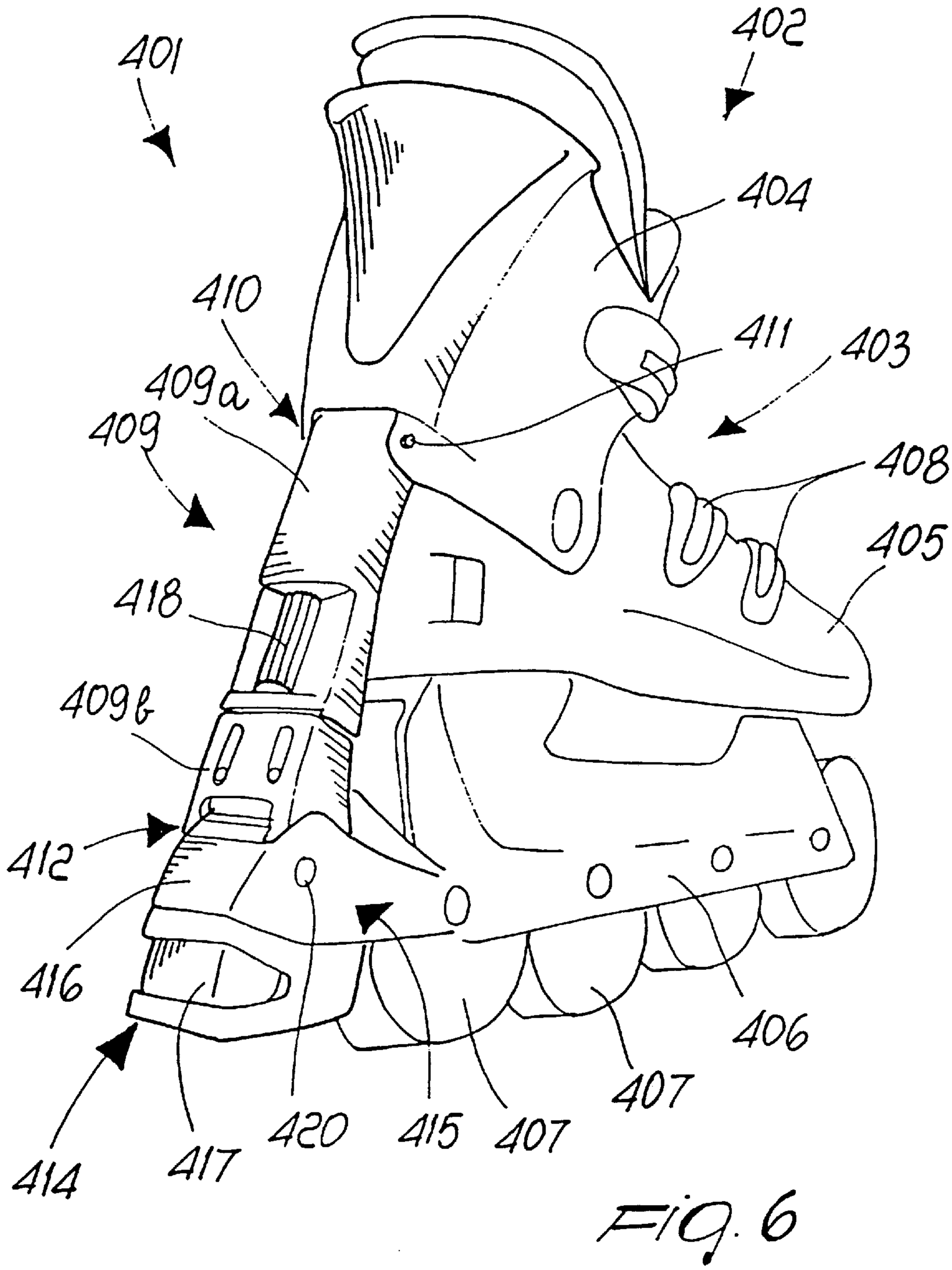

401
402
404
410
411
403
409a
409
408
405
418
409b
412
416
414
417
420
415
407
407
406

Fig. 6

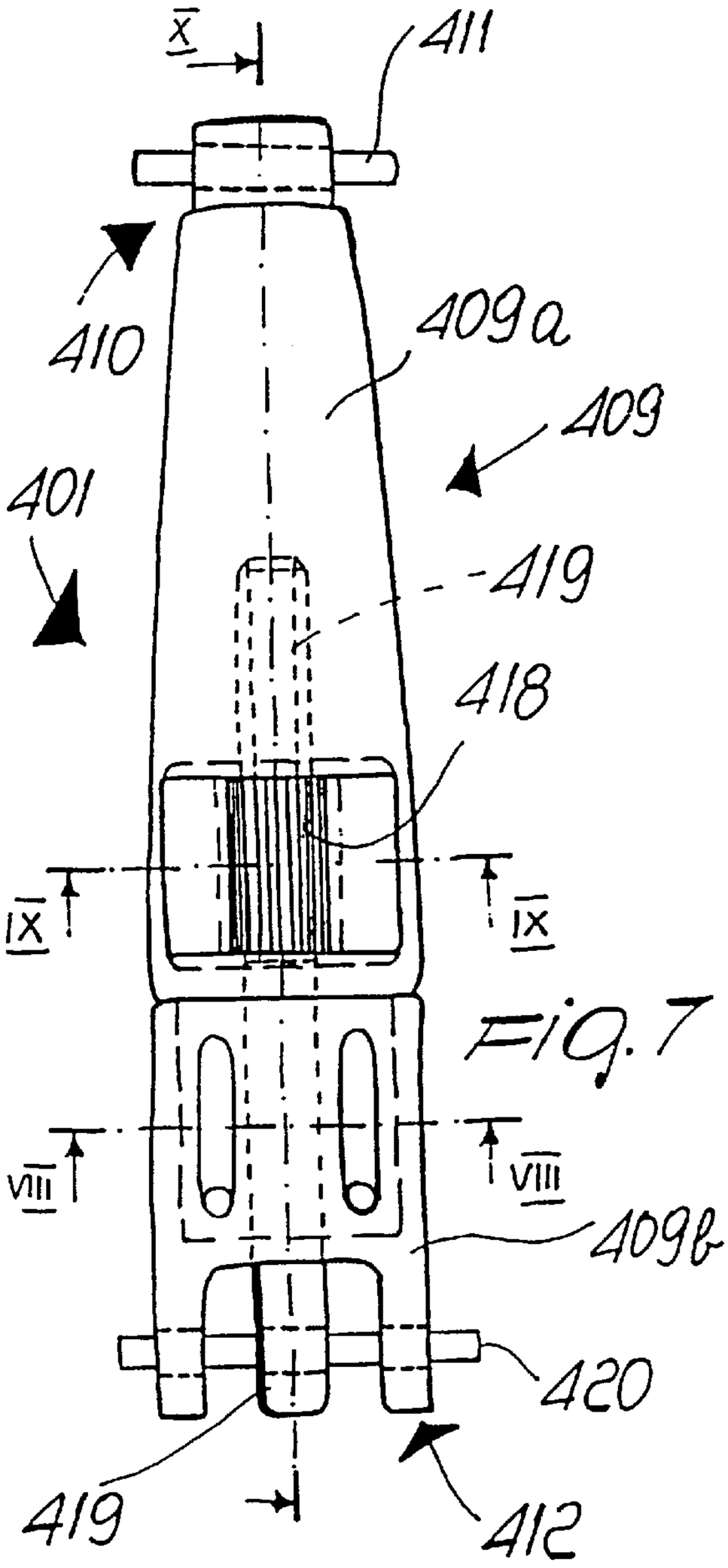


Fig. 7

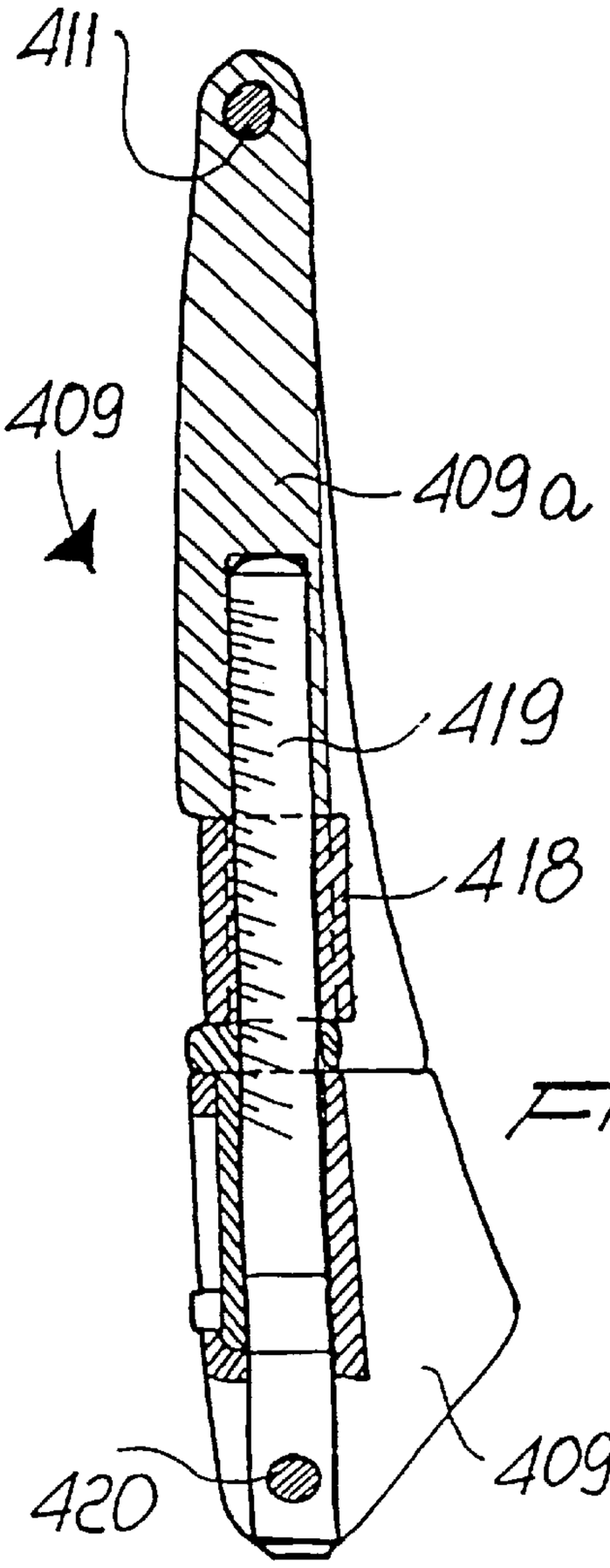


Fig. 10

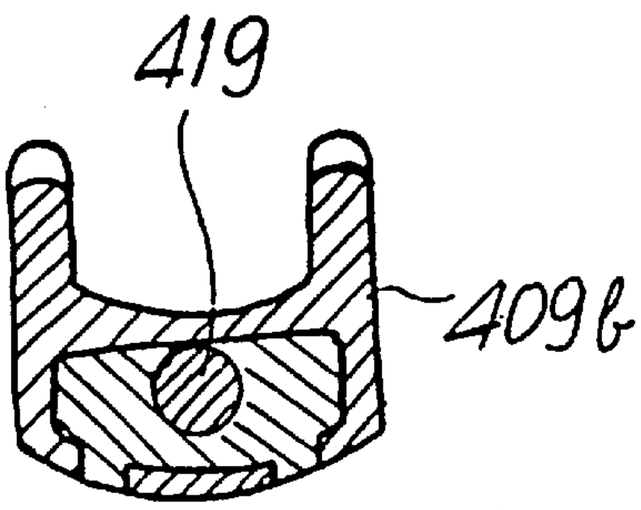


Fig. 8

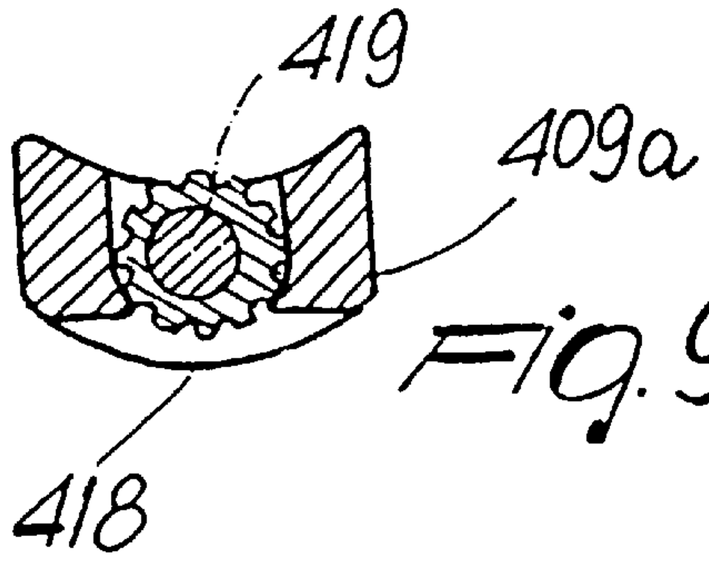
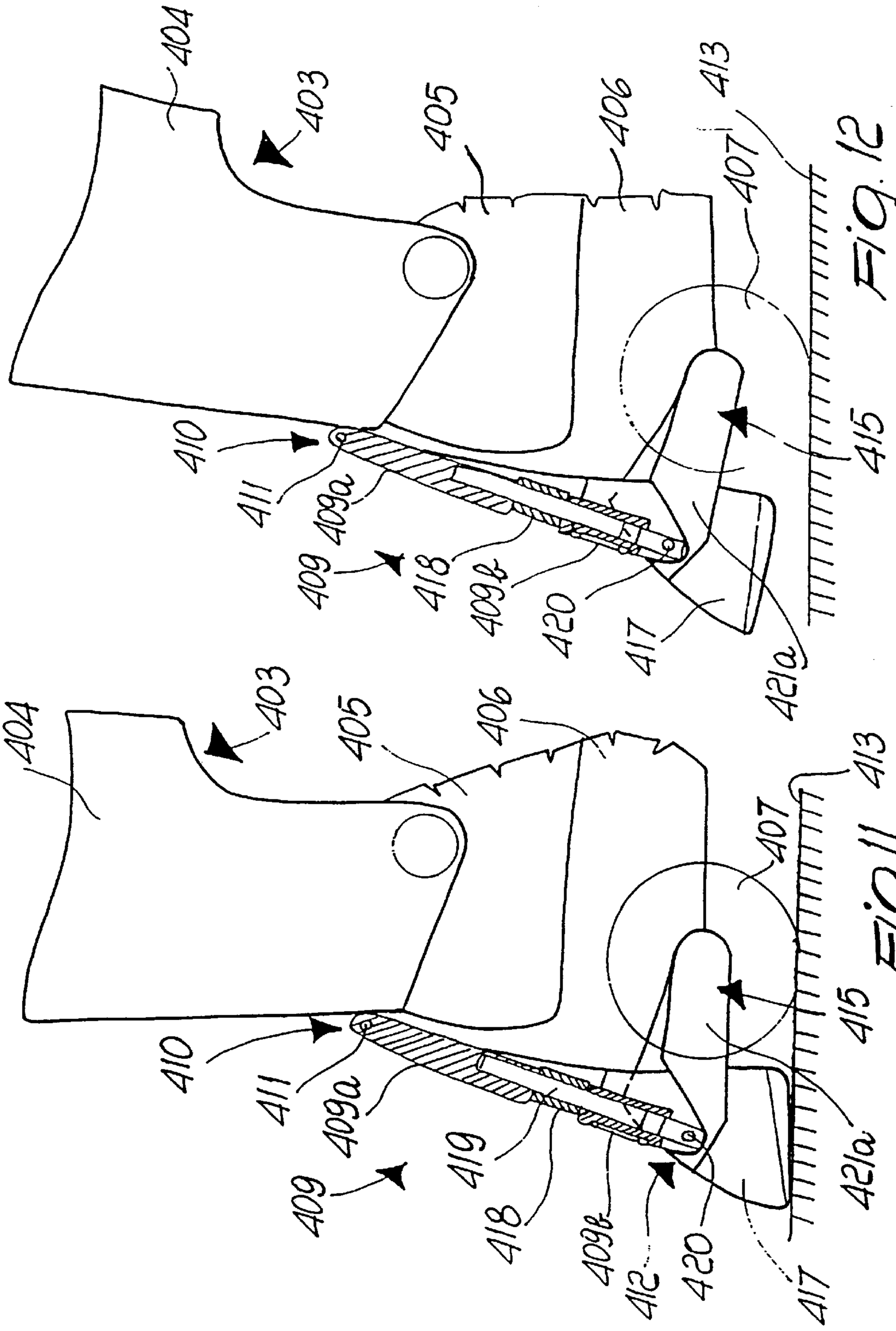


Fig. 9


404
403
405
406
413
407
415
410
411
409a
409
418
409b
420
417
421a
Fig. 12
404
403
405
406
407
413
415
410
411
409a
409
416
418
409b
412
420
417
421a
Fig. 11

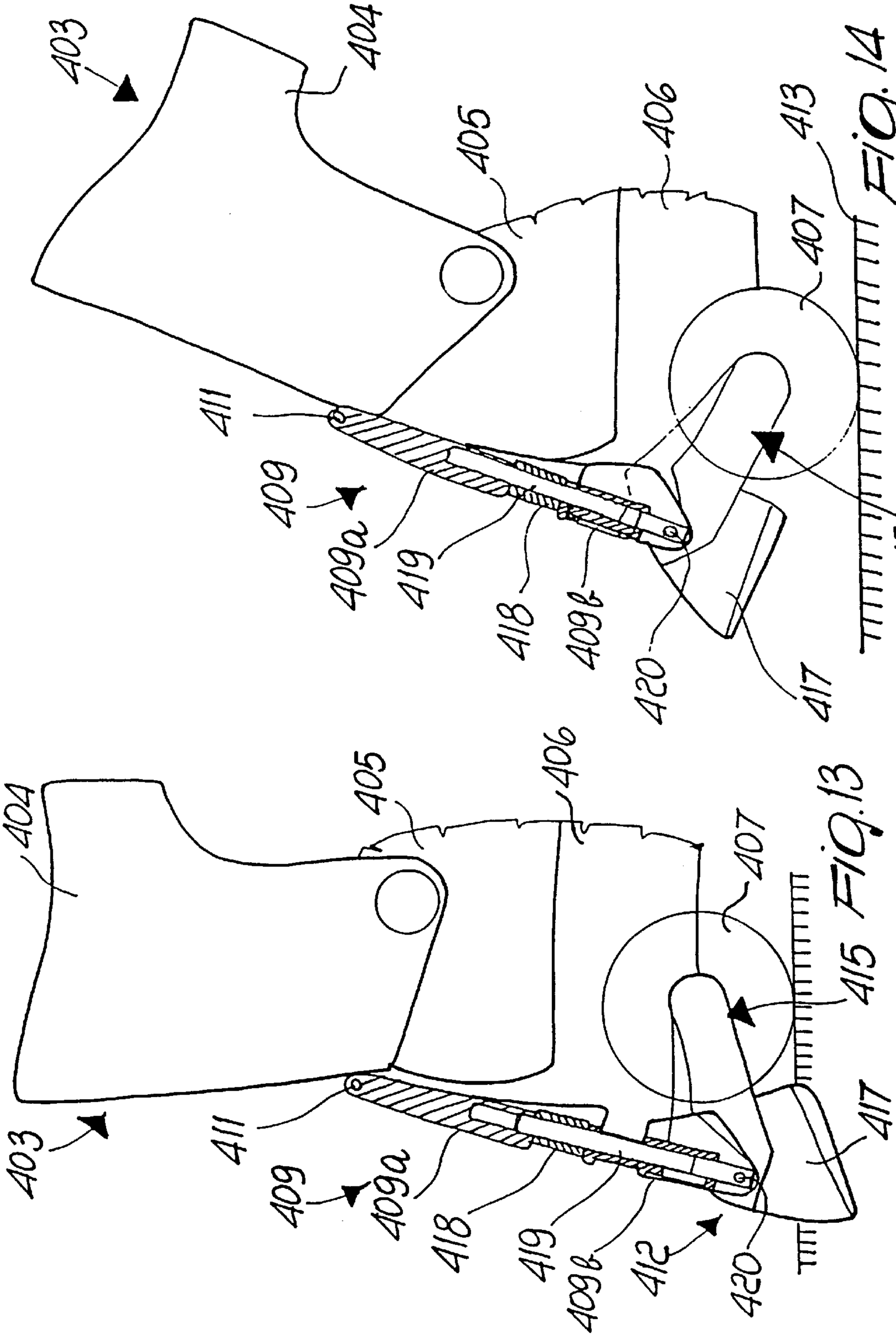

403
404
406
407
413
415
411
409
409a
419
418
409b
420
417

FIG. 14

404
405
406
407
415
403
411
409
409a
418
419
409b
412
420
417

FIG. 13

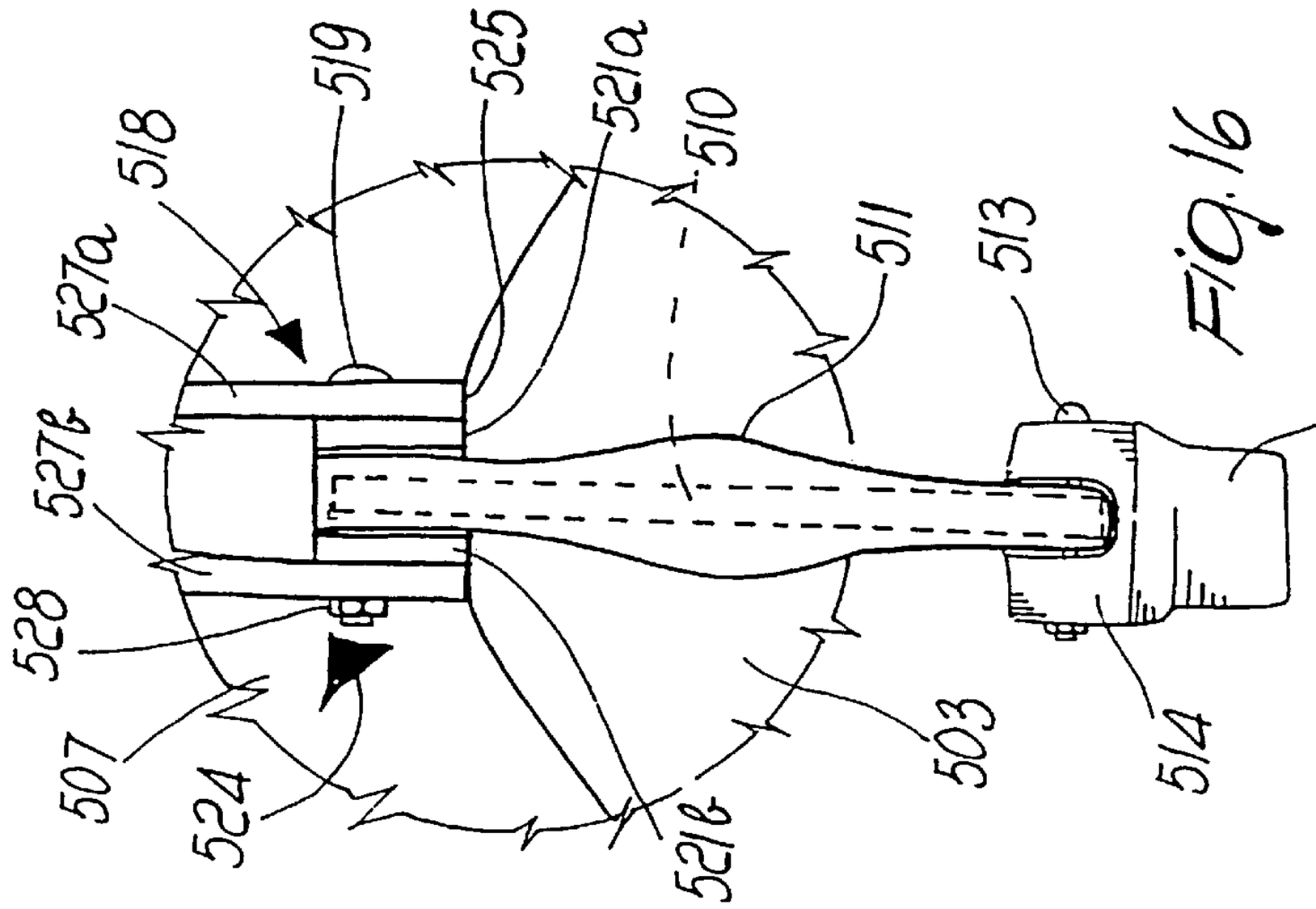

519
525
521a
518
510
527a
511
513
516
527b
528
507
524
521b
503
514

Fig. 16

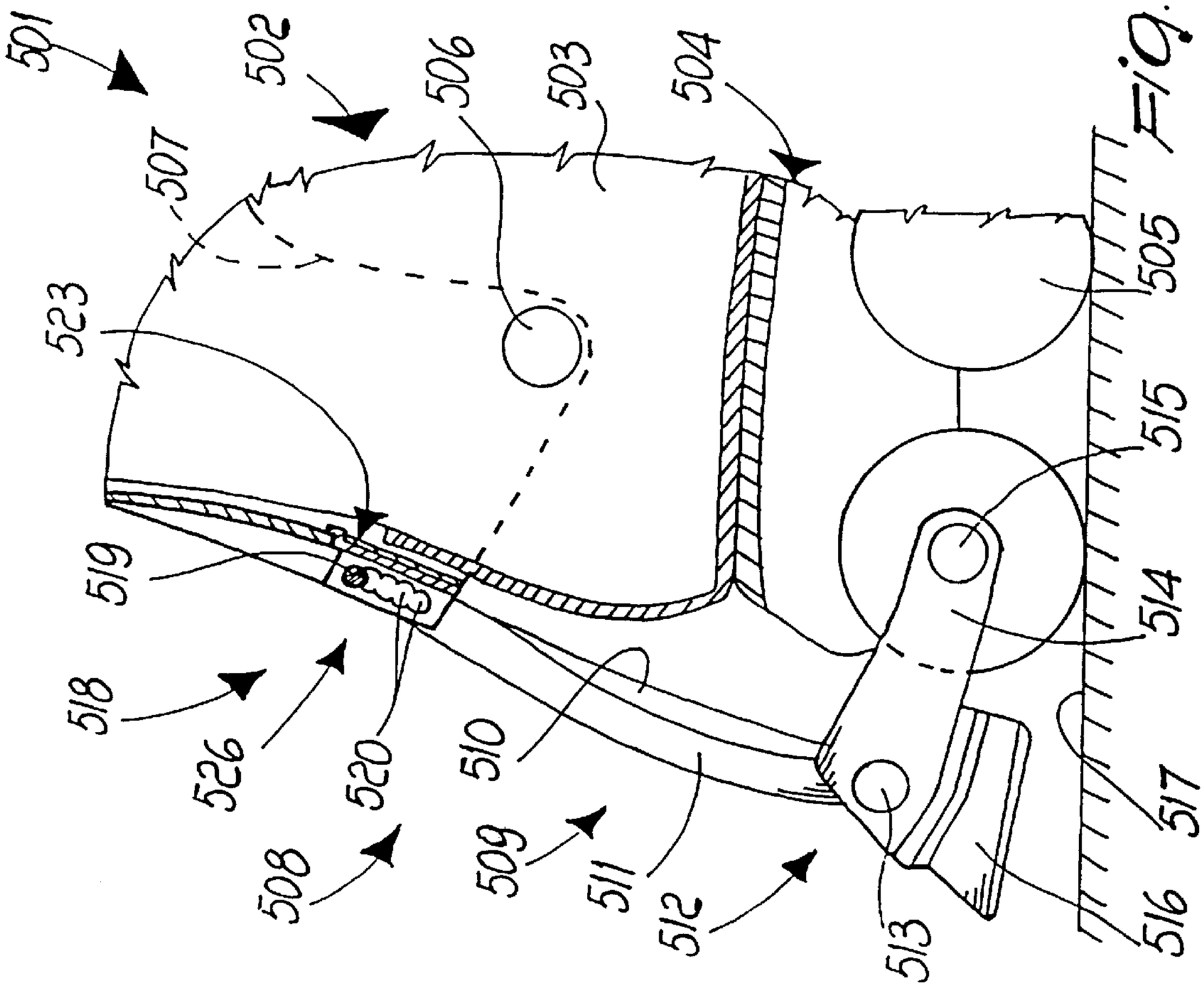

501
502
506
503
504
507
523
505
515
519
514
518
526
520
510
508
509
511
512
513
517
516

Fig. 15

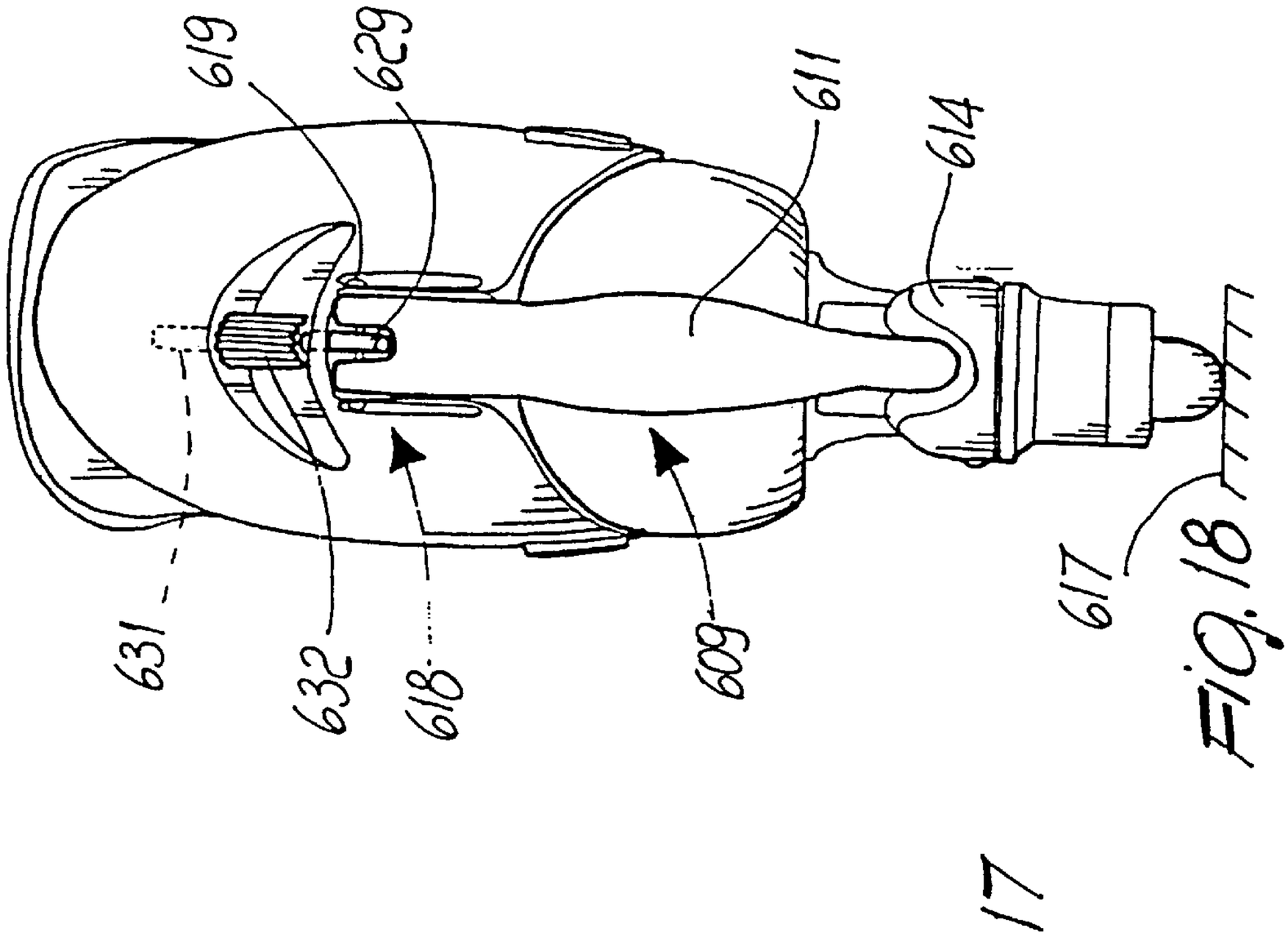
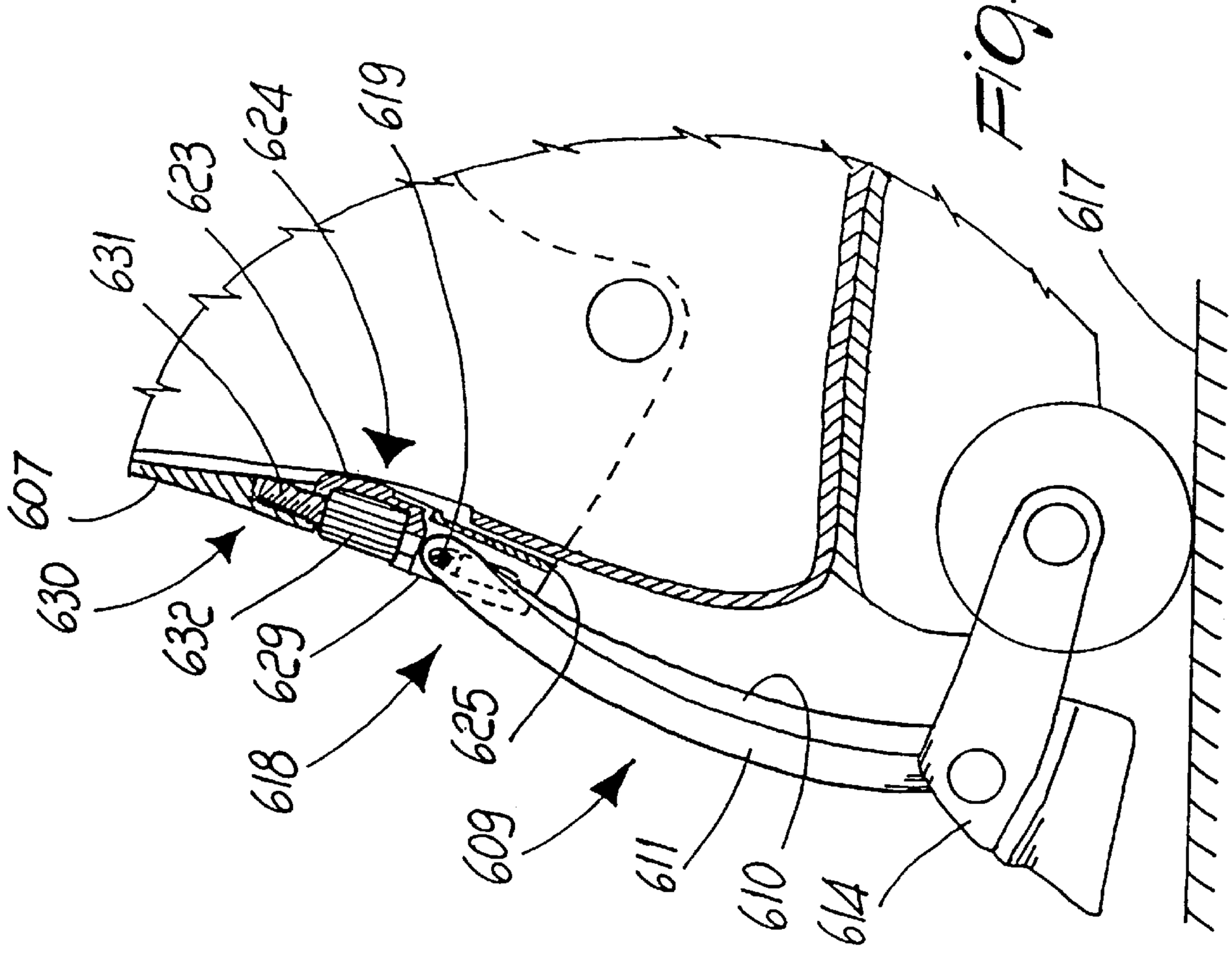
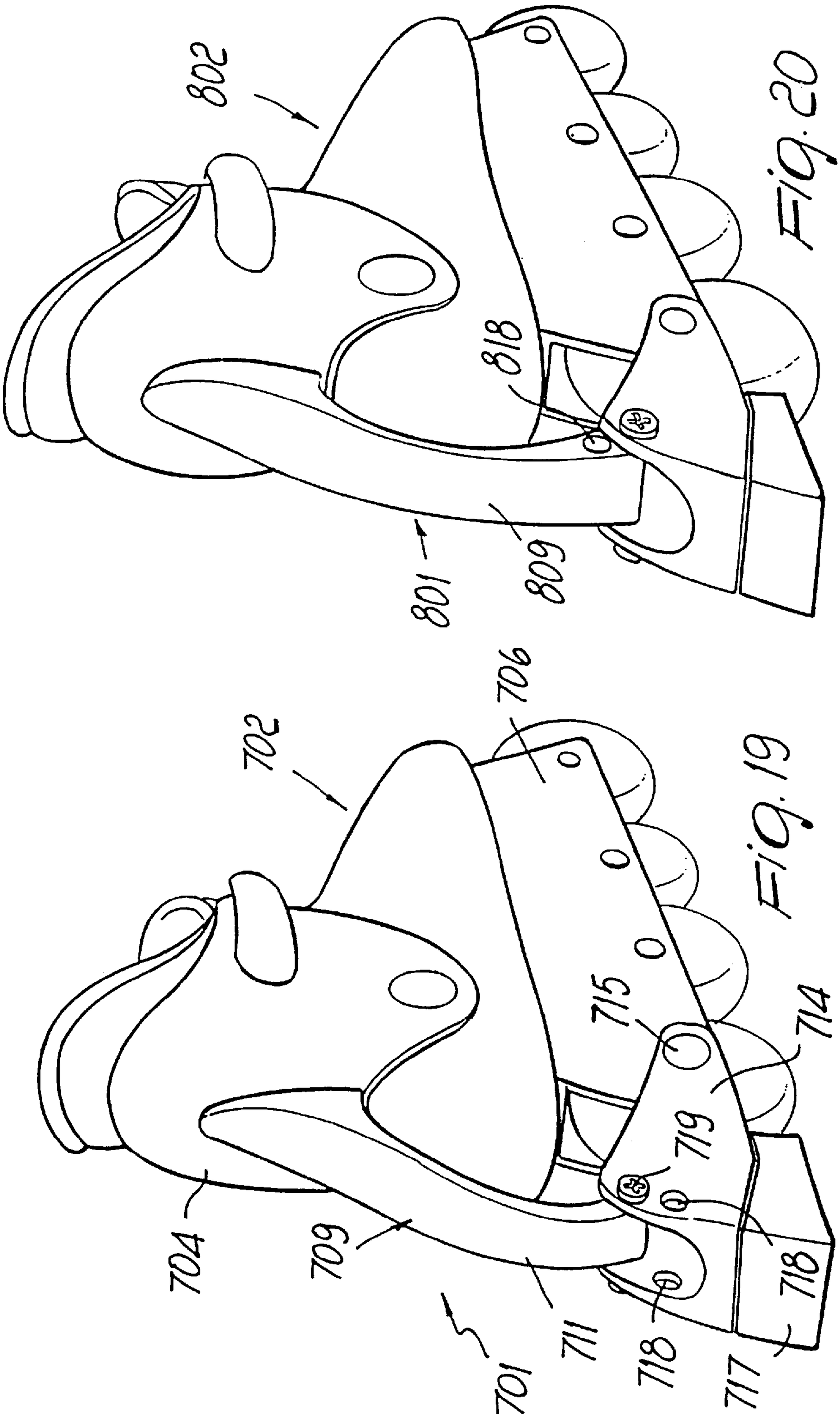

619
629
611
614
631
632
618
609
617

Fig. 18

Fig. 17


619
624
623
631
607
630
632
626
618
625
609
611
610
614
617


802
818
801
809
706
Fig. 20
702
715
714
719
704
709
701
711
718
717
718
Fig. 19

BRAKING DEVICE PARTICULARLY FOR SKATES

This is a division of application Ser. No. 08/115,416, Sep. 1, 1993 and now U.S. Pat. No. 5,465,984 issued Nov. 15, 1995.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a braking device particularly usable for skates which comprise an item of footgear composed of a quarter articulated to a shall which is in turn associated with a supporting frame for one or more wheels.

Currently, in known roller skates, whether constituted by an item of footgear associated with a support for two pairs of mutually parallel wheels or by an item of footgear associated with a supporting frame for one or more aligned wheels, the problem is felt of braking said wheels in order to adjust the speed of said skate.

It is thus known to use adapted blocks or pads, usually made of rubber, which are arranged at the toe or heel regions of the item of footgear; when the user tilts the item of footgear forwards or backwards, the free end of the pads or blocks interacts with the ground and braking is thus achieved.

However, these solutions are not optimum, since they require the user to rotate the item of footgear, and therefore the frame associated therewith, at the toe or heel, and this can be the cause of losses of balance with consequent falls.

U.S. Pat. No. 1,402,010 is also known; it discloses a roller skate provided with a band which can be secured on the user's leg above the malleolar region and to which a rod is connected.

Said rod wraps around the leg to the rear and is then curved so as to laterally affect the leg until it is associated, at its ends, in the malleolar region, with a lever system which is articulated to a flap protruding from the wheel supporting frame.

Said lever system protrudes to the rear of the frame and is connected to a plate which is shaped approximately complementarily to the curvature of part of an underlying and facing wheel.

This solution is not free from drawbacks: first of all, a relative movement occurs between the band and the leg throughout sports practice, and this does not make its use comfortable.

Furthermore, the plate is activated every time the user bends his leg backwards beyond a given angle, without actual and easy possibilities of varying this condition.

Furthermore, each user has a specific leg shape, and braking is thus obtained at different rotation angles for equal lengths of the rod.

Furthermore, said rod rests and presses on the malleolar region, and this can cause discomfort or accidental impacts.

Finally, considerable wear of the wheel is observed.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,275,895 is known as a partial solution to this drawback; it discloses a brake for skates with two pairs of mutually parallel wheels, which acts at the rear wheels.

Said brake is constituted by a flap associated with the item of footgear in a rearward position; a blade is associated with said flap in a rearward position and is pivoted at the supporting frame for the item of footgear.

Said blade has, at its free end, a transverse element on which a pair of C-shaped elements is formed at the lateral ends; said elements interact, following a backward rotation imparted to the flap, with the rear wheels which face them, so as to interact with the rolling surface of said wheels.

However, even this solution has drawbacks: it is in fact structurally complicated and thus difficult to industrialize; it furthermore entails the presence of adapted springs suitable to allow the flap to return to the position in which the pair of C-shaped elements does not interact with the wheels, and this further increases structural complexity.

Furthermore, the structural configuration of the brake causes the pair of C-shaped elements to interact with the wheel even upon a minimal backward rotation imparted to the flap and thus even due to involuntary movements, and this produces unwanted braking actions and therefore possible situations of loss of balance or lack of coordination.

Finally, interaction of the C-shaped element at the rolling surface of the wheels leads to rapid wear of said wheels and thus to non-optimum rolling, which necessarily entails continuous wheel replacement.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,300,781 is also known; it relates to a braking device for skates which comprise pairs of mutually parallel wheels.

It furthermore comprises a brake constituted by a blade pivoted transversely at the rear end of the supporting frame for an item of footgear; pads facing the rolling surface of the pair of rear wheels are associated with the ends of said blade.

The brake is activated by using a cable suitable to impart a rotation to the blade in contrast with a spring associated with the support for the pair of front wheels, so as to move the pads into contact with the rolling surface of the pair of rear wheels.

The cable can be activated by means of rings or handles associated with a band which can be arranged on the legs of the user by virtue of the presence of temporary connection means.

However, this solution has considerable drawbacks; first of all, activation of the brake can lead to possible losses of coordination during sports practice, since the user has to perform an uncoordinated movement.

Furthermore, during the traction applied to the rings the band may disengage from the legs, thus thwarting the braking action.

In any case, there is a loose cable which can accidentally catch during racing, especially since coordination of the arm-legs movement causes the legs to be located rhythmically laterally toward the outside.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The aim of the present invention is therefore to eliminate the drawbacks described above in known types by providing a braking device for skates which is structurally very simple and easy to industrialize.

Within the scope of the above aim, an important object is to provide a braking device which can be activated by the user in case of actual need and thus not accidentally.

Another important object is to provide a braking device which can be deactivated rapidly and simply by the user.

Another important object is to provide a device wherein brake activation can be preset by the user according to his own specific requirements, whether related to the shape of the leg or to the particular type of sport being practiced.

Another object is to provide a device which protects the rolling surface of the wheels against wear.

Another object is to obtain a device which associates with the preceding characteristics that of being reliable and safe

in use, has low manufacturing costs and can also be applied to known skates.

This aim, these objects and others which will become apparent hereinafter are achieved by a braking device as disclosed in the attached claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Further characteristics and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description of preferred embodiments, illustrated only by way of non-limitative example in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. **1** is a partially sectional side view of the braking device associated with a skate;

FIG. **2** is a view, similar to the preceding one, of a further embodiment of the device;

FIG. **3** is a sectional view, taken along a longitudinal plane, of the first and second rod member in another embodiment;

FIG. **4** is a side view of a roller skate according to a further aspect of the invention;

FIG. **5** is a rear view of the skate of FIG. **4**;

FIG. **6** is a rear perspective view of a skate provided with a braking device according to a fifth aspect of the invention;

FIG. **7** is a detail front view of the rod member of the device of FIG. **6**;

FIG. **8** is a sectional view according to the plane VIII—VIII of FIG. **7**;

FIG. **9** is a sectional view according to the plane IX—IX of FIG. **7**;

FIG. **10** is a sectional view according to the plane X—X of FIG. **7**;

FIG. **11** is a partially sectioned side view of the skate of FIG. **6** in the braking position;

FIG. **12** is a view similar to the preceding one in the inactive position;

FIG. **13** is a view similar to the preceding ones in the braking position, wherein the threaded stem is completely extracted to compensate for pad wear;

FIG. **14** is a view similar to the preceding one in the position of maximum forward flexing;

FIG. **15** is a partially sectioned side view of the rear portion of a skate according to a sixth aspect of the invention;

FIG. **16** is a partial rear view of the skate of FIG. **15**;

FIG. **17** is a partially sectioned side view of the rear portion of a skate according to a seventh aspect of the invention;

FIG. **18** is a partial rear view of the skate of FIG. **17**;

FIG. **19** is a rear perspective view of a skate according to an eighth aspect of the invention;

FIG. **20** is a rear perspective view of a skate according to a ninth aspect of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

With reference to the above figures, the reference numeral **1** designates the braking device, particularly usable for skates designated by the reference numeral **2**.

Said skates comprise an item of footgear **3** composed of a quarter **4** which wraps around the rear lateral region of the user's leg and is articulated to a shell **5**; a frame **6** is associated with said shell in a downward region and supports one or more wheels, designated by the reference numeral **7**, which are preferably mutually aligned.

Adapted fastening levers for the quarter **4** and the shell **5** may be also added.

The braking device comprises a first rod member **8** and a second rod member **9** which are respectively connected to said quarter **4** and to a braking element **10** which is oscillatably articulated to said frame **6** or at the pivot of one of said wheels **7**.

The first rod member **8** and the second rod member **9** interact with adapted first and second means suitable to adjust their working length; said first means are constituted by an internally threaded cylinder **11** with which complementarily threaded stems of a first bush **12** interact; said first bush is pivoted, by means of a first pivot **13**, proximate to the lower perimetric edge **14** Of the quarter **4** in the rear region thereof; the other threaded stem protrudes axially with respect to a shaft **15**; the assembly thus composed constitutes, in this case, said first rod member **8**.

Said first rod member is slidingly contained within a first sleeve **16** which is internally hollow and has a perforated end for the passage of said shaft **15** and an internally threaded end.

A complementarily threaded end of a second sleeve **17** interacts with said internally threaded end; said sleeve **17** is internally hollow and rigidly coupled to said second rod member **9**.

The second sleeve **17** in fact has, on the side opposite to the end which interacts with the first sleeve **16**, a threaded stem **18** protruding axially toward the braking element **10** and interacting with the second means suitable to adjust the working length of the second rod member **9**, which are constituted by a second bush **19** having an adapted and complementarily threaded axial seat and being transversely pivoted, by means of a second pivot **20**, to a support **21** which constitutes said braking element **10** and the wings whereof are pivoted, at their ends, to the frame **6** at the pivot of one of said wheels **7**.

At least one pad **22** which interacts with the ground is associated below the support **21**.

The shaft **15** has a head **23**, inside the first sleeve **16**, which is essentially T-shaped and faces a tab **24** which protrudes axially inside the second sleeve **17**.

The purpose of the tab **24** is to act as stroke limiter for the compression of the spring **26**, forcing the lowering of the braking element **21** when the head **23** presses on the tab **24**.

A first resilient member **25** is arranged coaxially to the shaft **15** and is preferably constituted by a spring interposed between the perforated end of the first sleeve **16** and the wings of the head **23** of said shaft.

A second resilient member **26** is arranged coaxially to the tab **24** and is constituted by a spring interposed between the base of the second sleeve **17** and the wing of the head **23** of the shaft **15**.

The device furthermore comprises at least one third resilient member **27** which is constituted by one or more springs interposed between the frame **6** or the shell **5** and the wings of the support **21** of the braking element **10**.

A retention element **28**, constituted by a raised portion protruding laterally to the frame **6**, is also provided.

The use of the braking device is as follows: first of all, the first, second and third resilient members have such an elastic constant as to allow, when at rest, to support the braking element **10** so that the pad **22** does not interact with the ground.

The user can thus customize the position of the braking element by acting on the first rod member **8** and on the second rod member **9**, varying their position with respect to the cylinder **11** and to the second bush **19**, and can also vary the pre-loading of the springs **25** and **26** by mutually screwing and unscrewing the first sleeve **16** and the second sleeve **17**.

The gap between the ends of the tab **24** and the head **23** allows the quarter **4** to rotate backwards without directly activating the braking element **10**, thus allowing free oscillation without producing a braking action.

Furthermore, the presence of the first resilient member **25** allows to adjust the forward flexibility of the quarter **4**.

The second resilient member **26** may also be suitable to adjust the inclination of said quarter, since said third resilient member **23** has a higher elastic constant.

Once all these adjustments have been performed, the user produces the braking action at a preset angle of backward rotation imparted to the rear quarter.

The various adjustments furthermore allow to compensate any wear of the pad **22**.

It has thus been observed that the invention has achieved the intended aim and objects, a braking device having been obtained which can be activated by the user at a presettable angle of backward rotation imparted to the quarter; this can be achieved by producing the required setting of the useful length of the first and/or second rod members with respect to the support **21** and to the quarter **4**.

Furthermore, both activation and deactivation of the braking element **10** are very simple, so as to allow to obtain a device which is structurally simple and easy to industrialize; the device can also be applied easily to known skates.

FIGS. **2** and **3** illustrate a further embodiment for a braking device **101** which comprises a first rod member **108** and a second rod member **109**, both of which are coupled at their ends, by means of a first pivot **113** and a second pivot **120**, respectively to the rear of the quarter **104** proximate to the lower perimetric edge **114** and to the support **121**, the wings whereof are pivoted to the frame **106** or at the pivot of one of said wheels **107**.

The first rod member **108** is constituted by a shaft **115** having a threaded end axially slideable inside a second sleeve **117** which is internally hollow and is rigidly coupled to the second rod member **109**.

The complementarily threaded end of a third sleeve **129** is associated with the threaded end of the shaft **115**; a first resilient member **125** is arranged inside said third sleeve **129** and is constituted by a spring which interacts by abutment at an adapted seat **130** formed axially at the base of the second sleeve **117** toward the braking element **110**.

A means suitable to guide the telescopic movement between the first rod member **108** and the second rod member **109** protrudes axially with respect to the third sleeve **129**; said means is constituted by a rod **131** freely slideable within an adapted cavity **132** connected to the seat **130**.

In the illustrated embodiment, the device comprises means suitable to vary the mutual distance between the support **121** and the pad **122**; said means are constituted by a screw **133** the head **134** whereof is embedded in the pad **122** and the threaded stem whereof interacts with a complementarily threaded nut **135** accommodated within the support **121**.

In this case, too, the intended aim and objects are therefore achieved, a braking device having been obtained which allows to adjust the angle of backward inclination of the quarter **4** to achieve interaction of the pad **122** with the ground.

It is furthermore possible to control the backward rotation of the quarter, giving a controlled and cushioned rest during sports practice by virtue of the presence of an adapted third resilient member **127** the elastic constant whereof is greater than that of the first elastically deformable element **125**.

The presence of the screw **133** allows to vary the position of the pad **122** according to its wear.

A further advantage of this further embodiment is constituted by the fact that the forward rotation of the quarter is not hindered by the connection with the braking element, since the rod **131** is freely slideable within the cavity **132**.

Finally, there is a retention element **128** which protrudes from the frame **106** and interacts with the support **121**.

FIG. **3** illustrates a further embodiment, wherein the first rod member **208** is again telescopically slideable with respect to the second rod member **209**, which is again rigidly associated with a second sleeve **217** within which a shaft **215** is slidingly arranged. The shaft **215** has, inside the second sleeve **217**, a third sleeve **229** for containing a first resilient member **225** and for supporting a second resilient member **226**, both of which are contained within the second sleeve **217**.

The use of these resilient members allows to achieve a shock-absorbing effect both for a forward inclination of the quarter and for a backward inclination thereof.

With reference to FIGS. **4–5**, the reference numeral **301** designates a braking device for a skate **302** according to a further aspect of the invention.

Said skates comprise an item of footgear **303** which is composed of a quarter **304**, which wraps around the rear lateral region of the user's leg and is articulated to a shell **305**. A frame **306** is associated with said shell in a downward region and supports one or more wheels, designated by the reference numeral **307**, which are preferably mutually aligned.

Adapted fastening levers **308** may be applied to the quarter **304** and the shell **305**.

The braking device comprises at least one rod member, generally designated by the reference numeral **309**, which is arranged to the rear of the item of footgear **303** and is connected to the quarter **304** by means of one or more adapted fastening members, such as for example screws or rivets **310**.

The rod member **309** is shaped complementarily to the quarter **304** and is arranged outside the shell **305**; it therefore has a curved shape which is suitable to arrange its end **311**, which faces toward the ground **312**, in a region to the rear of the frame **306**, so that it can be connected to a braking element **313** which is articulated to said frame **306** in an oscillating manner.

The braking element is constituted by a support **314** the wings whereof are pivoted, at their ends, to the frame **306** by means of studs or rivets or by means of the pivot of said wheel **315***a* and **315***b*, whereas the base **316** of the support **313** is connected to the end **311** of the rod member **309**.

A pad **317**, preferably made of rubber and suitable to interact with the ground, is furthermore associated with the support **314** in a downward region.

Use of the braking device is in fact as follows: by virtue of the connection of the end **311** of the rod member **309** to the base **316** of the support **314** of the braking element **313**, which is rotatably pivoted to the frame **306**, if the user

imparts a backward rotation to the quarter **304**, the end **311** of the rod member **309** moves **50** as to cause the pad to interact with the ground.

This interaction occurs only for a preset rotation imparted to the quarter **304** which, by virtue of the shape which can be given to the rod member **309** can thus be preset.

The user can in fact modify the shape of the rod member **309** to adjust the working length of the rod member and therefore to adjust the angle of inclination of the quarter **304** needed to brake.

This is done to allow interaction of the pad **317** with the ground **312** only when a given angle of backward rotation of the quarter **304** is exceeded, in order to avoid accidental braking actions.

When the user resumes him normal skating position, the end **311** of the rod member **309** rises simultaneously, and thus the pad disengages immediately from the ground.

It has been observed that the invention has achieved the intended aim and objects, a braking device having been achieved which can be activated by the user at a presettable angle of backward rotation of the quarter; this can be achieved by giving the required shape or length to the rod member.

With reference to FIGS. **6–14**, the reference numeral **401** designates the braking device particularly usable for skates designated by the reference numeral **402**.

Said skates comprise an item of footgear **403** composed of a quarter **404**, which wraps around the rear lateral region of the user's leg and is articulated to a shell **405**; a frame **406** is associated with said shell in a downward region and supports one or more wheels, designated by the reference numeral **407**, which are preferably mutually aligned.

Adapted fastening levers **408** are applied to the quarter **404** and the shell **405**.

The braking device comprises at least one rod member, generally designated by the reference numeral **409**, which is arranged to the rear of the item of footgear **403** and is pivoted, at a first end **410**, transversely to the quarter **404** by means of an adapted first pivot **411**.

In the particular embodiment shown, the rod member **409** is composed of two portions or segments **409***a* and **409***b* which are mutually telescopically connected in order to allow to adjust the position of the pad **417** with respect to the ground **413**, as explained hereafter.

The rod member **409** is sledeable with respect to the shell **405** and has a second end **412** which is not associated with the quarter **404**, is directed toward the ground **413**, and is articulated to the braking element **414** by means of a second pivot **420**; said braking element **414** is in turn oscillatably articulated to said frame **406**.

The braking element is constituted by a substantially C-shaped support **415**, the wings **421***a* and **421***b* whereof are pivoted, at their ends, to the frame **406** by means of studs or rivets or by means of the pivot of a wheel **407**; a pad **417**, preferably made of rubber and suitable to interact with the ground, is associated with the support **415** proximate to the base **416**.

There are also means for adjusting the mutual position of said at least one rod member and of said braking element; said means are constituted by an internally threaded cylinder **418** which is rotatably and longitudinally associated with said rod member in an adapted seat formed thereon.

A complementarily threaded stem **419** engages the thread of the cylinder **418**, and one end of said stem is associated with the support **415** by means of the pivot **420**, which interacts with the wings **421***a* and **421***b*, so as to allow to vary the distance of the pad from the ground.

Use of the braking device is in fact as follows: by virtue of the connection of the end of the rod ember **409** to the support **415** or of the connection of the stem **419** to said support **415**, a backward rotation imparted by the user to the quarter **404** is matched by a movement of the second end **412** of the rod member **409** which moves the pad, associated with the braking element **414** which is in turn rotatably pivoted to the frame **406**, so that it interacts with the ground.

This interaction occurs only for a preset rotation imparted to the quarter **404**, said rotation being set during design to ensure the correct and safe use of the skate, thus avoiding the occurrence of accidental braking actions for minimal angles of backward rotation of the quarter.

By virtue of the possibility of adjusting the mutual distance between the pad **417** and the ground **413** by means of the cylinder **418**, it is possible to determine the conditions required to obtain the braking action and thus determine them according to individual physical characteristics or to the particular use of the skate or to the wear of the pad.

This allows to select the angle of backward rotation of the quarter **404** beyond which interaction of the pad **417** with the ground **413** begins, in order to both avoid accidental braking actions while skating and compensate the unavoidable wear of the pad **417**, keeping constant the braking conditions of the user.

Once the user returns to the normal skating position, the second end **412** of the rod member **409** rises simultaneously and the pad immediately disengages from the ground.

With reference to FIGS. **15–16**, the reference numeral **501** designates a skate which is constituted by an item of footgear **502** composed of a shell **503** which is associated, in a downward region, with a frame **504** for two or more wheels **505** which are arranged in pairs parallel to each other or in a line, as shown in FIG. **15**.

A quarter **507** is articulated at the shell **502** by means of studs **506**, and interacts with means suitable to allow closure of said quarter in order to fasten the foot of the user.

The braking device, generally designated by the reference numeral **508**, comprises a rod member **509** advantageously composed of a rigid strut **510**, preferably made of steel, with which a covering **511**, preferably made of plastic material, is associated.

At one end, said strut **510** and said covering **511** surmount, or are associated with, a support **514**, for example by means of a first pivot **513**; said support **514** is articulated, in an oscillating manner, to the frame **504** or to the second pivot **515** of one of the wheels **505**; a pad **516** is associated with said support and is directed toward the ground **517**; this assembly constitutes a braking element for the skate.

The strut **510** and the covering **511** have a second end **518** which interacts with means for adjusting the position at least of the rod member **509** with respect to the quarter **507**; said means are constituted by a third pivot **519** which is detachably associable at an adapted first seat formed on said second end **518** of the strut **510** and/or of the covering **511**.

Said third pivot **519** can furthermore be arranged at one of a plurality of complementarily shaped second seats **520** which are formed sequentially and along the same axis at the wings **521***a* and **521***b* of a rigid base **523**, preferably made of steel, which is U-shaped and is associated at the rear region **524** of the quarter **507** proximate to its lower perimetric edge **525**.

Advantageously, the wings **521***a* and **521***b* are arranged within an adapted recess **526** formed in a rearward region of

the quarter **507**; adapted holes for the passage of the third pivot **519** at the desired seat among the second seats formed on the strut **510** are provided on the lateral walls **527***a* and **527***b* of said recess **526**.

Use of the device is thus as follows: by means of the third extractable pivot **519**, the user can place the second end **518** of the rod member **509** at the desired seat among the seats **520** formed on the wings **521***a* and **521***b* of the base **523**.

In this manner, the user can select the distance between the lower perimetric edge **525** of the quarter **507** and the support **514** of the pad **516**.

Therefore, according to specific requirements such an morphological configurations or the type of sport practiced, the user can select the interaction of the pad **516** with the ground **517** according to the desired angle of backward tilt of the quarter **507**, and thus achieve braking.

The braking device is also very simple and safe in use; in fact the third pivot **519** can be locked in the preselected position by associating it, for example, with an adapted locking nut **528**.

The number and arrangement of the seats **520** may of course vary according to the specific requirements.

Furthermore, as shown in FIGS. **17** and **18**, the means for adjusting the mutual position of the quarter **607** and of the second end **618** of the rod member **609** may be again constituted by a third pivot **619** which is pivoted at least at the strut **610** and possibly at the covering **611**, said third pivot **619** affecting an adapted through seat formed on the head **629** of a screw **630**.

Said screw comprises a threaded stem **631** with which a complementarily threaded sleeve **632** engages; said sleeve is rotatably associated at an adapted base **623** which is rigidly coupled in the rear region **624** of the quarter **607** proximate to its lower perimetric edge **625**.

Operation in this embodiment entails that a rotation imparted to the sleeve **632** is matched by an axial movement for the threaded stem **631** of the screw **630**; in this manner, the head **629** actuates the movement of the third pivot **619** and consequently varies the angle of the support **614** with respect to the ground **617**.

FIG. **19** shows a skate **702**, according to a further aspect of the invention, comprising a braking device **701** which is constituted by a rod member **709** having an upper end connected with the quarter **704** and a lower end **711** connected to a brake support **714**. The brake **714** is pivoted to the skate frame **706**, at pivot **715**, and supports a pad **717**.

The brake support **714** also has a series of vertically arranged holes **718** adapted to engage a rod pivot **719** associated with the lower end of the rod member **709**. It can be easily seen that the braking action can be varied by arranging the rod pivot **719** in different holes **718**. Only two different holes **718**, corresponding to two different braking positions, are illustrated in FIG. **19**, it is however obvious that the number of holes may change according to the requirements.

FIG. **20** shows a skate **802** having a slightly modified braking device **801**, wherein the series of holes **818** is provided at the lower end of the rod member **809**.

A further modified braking device, which is not illustrated in the drawings, may have two series of adjusting holes provided respectively at the lower end of the rod member and at the brake support.

Naturally, the materials and the dimensions which constitute the individual components of the invention may also be the most pertinent according to the specific requirements.

We claim:

1. In a skate comprising a base arranged to support the foot of a user, a longitudinally-extending frame associated with said base and adapted to support a plurality of wheels, and a braking element positioned rearwardly with respect to said frame and supported relative to said frame for upward and downward movement between a first position in which said braking element is spaced upward above the ground and a second position in which said braking element engages the ground, that improvement comprising;

an upper support adapted to be secured relative to the leg of a user at a position above the ankle of the user when the foot of the user is in engagement with said base such that said upper support is movable generally forwardly and rearwardly relative to said frame in response to pivoting of the leg of the user about the ankle region of the user; and,

an actuator disposed rearwardly of said upper support and rearwardly of a forward portion of said braking element, and extending generally longitudinally between said upper support and said braking element,

said actuator being interconnected between said upper support above said ankle of said user and said braking element such that said actuator moves generally downwardly and causes said braking element to move towards the ground when said upper support is moved rearwardly and moves generally upwardly and causes said braking element to move away from the ground when said upper support is moved forwardly.

2. The skate of claim **1** wherein said upper support is connected to said skate for pivotal movement relative to said base.

3. The skate of claim **1** wherein said base comprises a shell arranged to receive the foot and ankle region of a user and said upper support comprises a quarter mounted for pivotal movement relative to said shell.

4. The skate of claim **3** wherein an upper end of said actuator is connected to the rear portion of said quarter and a lower end of said actuator is connected to said braking element.

5. The skate of claim **1** wherein the working length of said actuator between the points at which said actuator is connected to said upper support and to said braking element is adjustable.

6. The skate of claim **1** wherein said braking element is pivotally connected to said frame and includes a brake support having a pivot end pivotally attached to said frame and an extending portion extending rearwardly, with respect to said frame, from said pivot end, and wherein said actuator is positioned rearwardly of said pivot end.

7. The skate of claim **6** wherein the working length of said actuator between said upper end thereof and said lower end thereof is adjustable.

8. In a skate comprising a shell arranged to receive the foot and ankle region of a user, a longitudinally-extending frame associated with said base and adapted to support a plurality of wheels, and a braking element positioned rearwardly with respect to said frame and supported relative to said frame for upward and downward movement relative to said frame between a first position in which said braking element is spaced upward above the ground and a second position in which said braking element engages the ground, that improvement comprising:

an upper support connected to said skate for pivotal movement relative to said shell about a first axis and adapted to be secured relative to the leg of a user at a position above the ankle of the user when the foot of the

user is in engagement with said base such that said upper support is movable generally forwardly and rearwardly relative to said frame in response to pivoting of the leg of the user about the ankle region of the user; and,

an actuator disposed rearwardly of said upper support and rearwardly of a forward portion of said braking element, and extending generally longitudinally between said upper support and said braking element,

said actuator being responsive to rearward movement of said upper support to cause said braking element to move towards said second position, and permitting said braking element to move towards said first position upon forward movement of said upper support.

9. The skate of claim **8** wherein the working length of said actuator between said upper end thereof and said lower end thereof is adjustable.

10. The skate of claim **8** wherein said braking element is pivotally connected to said frame and extends rearwardly of said frame for pivotal movement relative to said frame about a second axis between said first position and said second position, said actuator being positioned rearwardly of said second axis.

11. The skate of claim **10** wherein said braking element comprises:

a braking support having a pivot end pivotally connected to said frame and an extending portion extending rearwardly, with respect to said frame, from said pivot end; and,

at least one brake pad supported by said brake support and having a braking surface adapted to interact with the ground.

12. The skate of claim **10** wherein said actuator is positioned rearwardly of said first axis.

* * * * *